

**Flagstaff Montessori**

Regular Governing Board Meeting

Address: 850 N Locust St. Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00pm

Location: B3 Classroom

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rux-vkxg-acd> Board Meeting

Or dial: (US) +1 414-439-0590 PIN: 317 892 156#

**Public Comment:** The Governing Board values input from teachers, parents, and students at its meetings. Agenda Item: "Public Comment" provides an opportunity for the Board to receive information or inquiries regarding items not on the agenda. The Arizona Open Meeting law permits the public to ask questions about non-agenda items, but the Board may not discuss or take action on an item not on the posted agenda. "Public Comment" regularly occurs at the end of each regular Board meeting. In order to address the Board during the Public Comment, community members should complete a Public Comment form and give it to the Secretary of the Board prior to the start of the meeting.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Input from members of the public on an issue under discussion will be considered at the conclusion of the Board's deliberation of each agenda item and before a vote is taken on that item. Visitors who wish to address the Board on an item that is on the agenda should complete a Public Comment form and give the form to the Secretary to the Board before the vote on that item so that the Board knows you wish to express an opinion on that agenda item.

**Meeting Etiquette:** Comments are limited to 3 minutes per item and 3 agenda items per meeting, including Public Comment. If you are with a group, please designate a spokesperson. Please turn off cell phones during the Board Meeting. Courteous behavior is expected, and inappropriate behavior with regard to the Board, Flagstaff Montessori staff, or other meeting attendees is subject to forfeiture of allotted time to speak.

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order:** Ms. Beya Thayer called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

**2. Roll Call of Members**

<b>Members</b>	
Dr. Sara Clancey	present

Dr. Kyler Kuehn	present
Ms. Beya Thayer	present
Mr. Andy Vaughan	present

\*Quorum Requirement met. .

*Administrators in Attendance:*

Whitney Owens

Nicole Burkhardt

*Others in Attendance*

Brian van Meerten

Steve Holloway

Shayna Wardlow

Elena Keppler

Birr Dilday

Ambria Dilday

Michelle Buscaglia

Carl Keppler

Metta Kuehn

Kristi Kolek

Sue Shmoler

Laura Lynn

Alicia Felurquin

Sandy Worchester

*Via Zoom:*

Claudina Douglas

Benji Whitcomb

James Gross

Joe Strum

Rachel Strum

**3. Proposal to move agenda item 5 to position number 8:**

Motion to move agenda item number 5 to position number 8.	Mr. Andy Vaughan
---	------------------

Seconded	Ms. Beya Thayer
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**4. Approval of previous board meeting minutes**

The board will review the 01/09/2024 board meeting minutes prepared by Sara Clancey, Secretary of the board.

Presentation, discussion, and possible action

Motion to approve the minutes from 1/09/2024	Dr. Kyler Kuehn
Seconded	Andy Vaughan
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**4. Celebrations and General Updates**

Whitney Owens will present celebrations and general updates.

Presentation and discussion. No action needed:

Field trips are resuming as FUSD is now allowing charter schools to rent school buses.

Avery Chute completed in the Coconino County spelling bee

A new committee around culturally relevant teaching has been formed by the teachers.

**5. Easement Proposal**

Real Estate Broker, Brandon Richards and/or their business partner will present on the proposed easement and answer any questions from the Board.

Presentation, discussion, and possible action:

Steve Holloway presented official responses from Brandon Richards to the concerns brought up during the previous board meeting.

1. The offer of \$50,000 is the prospective buyers highest offer.
2. The traffic impact of the parcel could potentially be 210 vehicle trips daily on Locust Dr.
3. The buyer would be obligated to submit a comprehensive drainage plan to the City's Stormwater Department for approval.

Dr. Kyler Kuehn asked whether the drainage plan would include both the Montessori School's property as well as the parcel.

Public Comment:

Metta Kuehn: If we approve this the entire student body would be upset. One of the best parts of the school is the giant open playground. She would like the board to say NO.

Sue Shomler: She is concerned about the increased traffic in the neighborhood. There are a lot of little children in the neighborhood who often play in the street and she is concerned the traffic would impact the safety of these children.

Brian van Meerten: He is a parent of two former students and values the philosophy of Montessori. He values how the school works to protect the environment. The playground is very important. He would like the board to vote NO.

Alicia Felurquin: Thanked the board. She is the resident who is the most likely impacted by this decision. She would encourage the board to vote no for a few reasons. First, the financial offer from the proposed buyer is too low. Second, she loves hearing the children playing in the playground. Alicia is also concerned about the safety of the younger kids in the neighborhood. She has seen drivers who are speeding. Another 210 trips through the neighborhood is a significant increase.

Laura Lyn: Spoke at the last meeting. She lives on Pine Cliff, which would take the overflow traffic when Locust is busy. She is also concerned about the possibility of new residents making the left hand turns into the possible new development. She is concerned about safety. Laura has also had two kids go to this school.

Kristi Kolek: She lives in the neighborhood and is the HOA president. She has heard from a lot of concerned residents. She agrees with everything that everyone has said. She wants to add that she is concerned about impact the development would have on the wildlife. She is very concerned about the safety of the neighbors and children. She encourages the board to vote NO.

Michelle Buscaglia: She thanked the board. She requested that the board votes NO on the proposal. She doesn't think that the developer understands how it will disrupt the neighborhood. She is also concerned about extra traffic and the impact of the snow. She is also concerned about the wildlife and the AZ scenic trail that exists on that parcel.

Carl Keppler: His house is on Locust across the street from the 2nd access point. He is

concerned about the traffic and narrowing of the easements will be dangerous. He doesn't see a win-win other than for the developer.

Joe and Rachel Sturm: He is not in favor of the easement. He is a cyclist and the traffic would make it more dangerous for him to get to the path. He is also concerned that the developer would cut down all of the trees on the parcel. Having an easement on Locust is not very wise especially for the school children.

Marila Banning: She would like to add that she was the original owner when the Montessori School was built. At that time 100 dump trucks each day ran through Locust and Pine Cliff. The construction was disruptive. As a school it would be counterproductive for the students and their learning. It seems like adding this type of compression on this mesa will impact the health of the youngest and oldest residents.

Jim Gross: Attended the last meeting. He would like to recognize the student that has spoken to her classmates. He thinks the students' voices should be considered as much as the community's voices. He appreciates the neighbors for coming out today.

Carley Trotter: From an email: "I would like to strongly discourage the proposal. Students, staff, and community members alike have expressed their concern for the impact and the negative consequences it will have. Our students deserve an outdoor space not only to play, but to learn in and use as they see fit with as much open space and freedom as possible. This would also greatly limit our school's potential in the future, and in turn limit our capacity to further serve our students and the community. Montessori is based on tenants of community and peace, both of which would be disturbed and even broken with such a large impact to the school community and neighborhood community in which we are housed. I urge the board to reject the proposal."

Ali Goral: As a parent, I deeply value the ample space available on our elementary campus, particularly on the playground. It brings me joy to see children freely running around and exploring in the open air. The presence of play structures along with open areas of space allows them to exercise their imaginations and create games of their own. Additionally, I appreciate the current sense of safety on the playground, even with the nearby road. I have concerns regarding the potential impact of increased traffic and noise that may result from the proposed easement. The safety of our students is of utmost importance, and I worry about the potential risks associated with additional vehicles near the school. Furthermore, I believe it is crucial to maintain the positive relationship we have with the surrounding neighborhood and community as a teacher at our school. Considering these factors, I respectfully express my opinion that we should not agree to this proposal, as it would not only affect our students but also have implications for the entire community.

Motion to move into executive session	Andy Vaughan
---------------------------------------	--------------

Seconded	Dr. <b>Kyler Kuehn</b>
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

Motion to deny the request to purchase the easement as proposed by the real estate broker and his representative	Ms. <b>Beya Thayer</b>
Seconded	Mr. <b>Andy Vaughan</b>
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**6. Executive Session-Easement Proposal**

Per ARS38-431.03 the Board may vote to enter into executive session to discuss the easement proposal.

Discussion: notes in executive session minutes

**7. Financial Updates**

Claudina Douglas and/or an employee from ADI, and Whitney Owens will share financial updates this may include monthly financials and use of tax credit money.

Presentation and discussion, and possible action:

Claudina Douglas gave the school board a summary of the schools total financials and net revenue. The net revenue is \$25,395.55.

Whitney presented the idea of meeting with Claudina and Andy for a financial meeting. They will offer a report to the board at next month's meeting.

Whitney then started the discussion about unrestricted tax credit money and how it

should be used (whether or not it should be moved into M&O). Claudina explained how tax credit money is earned. She also explained that some of the funds are earmarked for specific uses and should be spent within the year it is donated. The funds that are not earmarked are able to be used for a variety of purposes. Claudina encouraged the board to think outside the box for the use of these funds, but to check with the schools' auditor before spending the money.

The school would like to use the money for a new security door, fence repair, and to repair the playground equipment at the Switzer campus.

Beya Thayer requested that Whitney come to the next meeting with proposals and costs for the non-earmarked funds.

**8. Discing4Kids Tax Credit**

Whitney Owens and/or Nicole Burkhardt will present on Discing4Kids as an afterschool program for Switzer students. This is tax credit eligible and needs board approval to use tax credit funds to cover the cost.

Presentation, discussion, and possible action:

Nicole Burkhardt explained that Discing 4 Kids is a non-profit organization that works to develop students life skills and disc golf skills. There is a training program that goes along with the disc golf skills. They have been working with the middle school and are now looking at expanding to the elementary. The organization offers free programming to promote inclusion of all students. Nicole estimated that about 10-15 students would want to participate and it is \$65/student. To make it available to students the school would like to use the tax credit funds to cover the cost.

Motion to approve the use of tax credit funds for discing4kids.	Dr. Kyler Kuehn
Seconded	Ms. Beya Thayer
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**9. Field Trip Buses and Fees Tax Credit**

Whitney Owens will present on upcoming field trips and the potential use of tax credit money to cover fees and bus costs. These are tax credit eligible and need board approval to use tax

credit funds to cover the costs.  
 Presentation, discussion, and possible action  
 This will replace the activity fee that is no longer collected.

Motion to use tax credit money to fund field trips and buses.	Ms. Beya Thayer
Seconded	Mr. Andy Vaughan
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**10. Fiscal Year 2025 Calendar**

Whitney Owens will present the FY25 draft calendar for board approval.  
 Presentation, discussion, and possible action:  
 Whitney Owens presented the FY25 draft calendar and shared the reasons for the changes.  
 Concerns about supporting families with childcare during the professional development days were discussed.

Motion to approve the FY25 calendar.	Dr. Sara Clancey
Seconded	Dr. Kyler Kuehn
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**11. Salary Schedule**



Whitney Owens will share feedback from employees regarding the salary schedule.  
Presentation and discussion:

She proposes that a COLA of 3.5% be provided for teachers. Whitney also proposed that assistant teachers get a larger increase in salary after 3 years.

**12. Potential Board Member Presentations**

Shaynna Wardlow and Sandra Worcester will each give a presentation as potential new board members. Board Members will ask questions and engage in discussion. Presentation, discussion, and possible action:

Shaynna Wardlow: presented first  
Sandy Worcester presented second

Motion to move to executive session	Ms. <b>Beya Thayer</b>
Seconded	Dr. <b>Kyler Kuehn</b>
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**13. Executive Session**

Per ARS38-431.03 the Board may vote to enter into executive session to discuss consideration of potential board members.

Discussion

**14. Election of Board Member(s)**

The Board will potentially vote on the appointment of new board member(s)  
Discussion and possible action

Motion to accept Shaynna Wardlow to the Montessori School of Flagstaff Board	Mr. <b>Andy Vaughan</b>
--	-------------------------

Seconded	Dr. <b>Kyler Kuehn</b>
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

Motion to accept Sandra Worcester to the Montessori School of Flagstaff Board.	Mr. <b>Andy Vaughan</b>
Seconded	Dr. <b>Kyler Kuehn</b>
Dr. Sara Clancey	aye
Dr. Kyler Kuehn	aye
Ms. Beya Thayer	aye
Mr. Andy Vaughan	aye
Final Resolution:	approved

**15. Social Media Update**

Whitney Owens will present a social media update  
Presentation, discussion, no action needed:  
Whitney provided updates to the board.

**16. Enrollment Update**

Whitney Owens will present an enrollment update  
Presentation, discussion, no action needed  
Enrollment is at 177.5 students which is an increase of 3 students. The hundred day count was 175.5.

**17. Date and Time of Next Board Meeting**

Discussion and possible action to set the date and time of the next board meeting.  
The next board meeting will be March 5th, 2024 at 6:00pm.

**18. Public Comment (3 mins per/person, total of 30 mins time allotment)**

Laura Lynn made the suggestion to notify families of former students that the school is now a non-profit.

**19. Adjournment**

Ms. **Beya Thayer** adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.